Obad 1: [1] The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.

1. The Vision of Obadiah 1

Obadiah is the third shortest book in the Bible following 2nd John and 3rd John.

Obadiah means servant of Yahweh or servant of God.
Obadiah was a fairly common name and there are a number of men in scripture named Obadiah.

After 400 years in Egypt; God raised up Moses to lead the children of Israel out of bondage.
Israel would spend 40 years wandering in the wilderness because of their sin.
After those 40 years, God allowed Israel to cross Jordan and Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land.
Within 300 years, Israel desired a king to be like other nations.
God granted their request and Saul was made King. Saul disobeyed God and was rejected.
God raised up a man after God's own heart to be king, his name was David.
After David, God made Solomon King. Upon Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam reigned.

During Rehoboam's reign the nation split into the N. Kingdom and the S. Kingdom.
The N. Kingdom was known as Israel and the S. Kingdom was known as Judah.
All of the kings that reigned in the N. Kingdom were wicked and God warned Israel about captivity.
Israel would not repent and the Assyrians invaded the N. Kingdom and took Israel into captivity.
The S. Kingdom had kings that were wicked but some were good.
This spared Judah from going into captivity at the same time the N. Kingdom did.
However, Judah would soon follow the sins of the N. Kingdom and God allowed Babylon to invade.

Obadiah begins his prophecy just after Israel and Judah are both carried away into captivity.
Obadiah was given a "vision" which is a revelation from the Lord.

Obad 1: [1] The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle

2. The Voice of the Lord 1

God begins to speak to Obadiah in this vision.
The voice speaks of "***a rumour from the Lord***."
The word "***rumour***" means astonishing news. This news, being from the Lord, is true a valid.
Obadiah is being given a new bulletin from the Lord.

The vision and the voice are given as a prophecy concerning the nation of Edom.

Edom was located South and East of Israel.
Edom is located in the Sier mountain range and has the city of Petra for it's capitol.

<u>Genesis 25:30</u>
[30] And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

Remember Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons. Their names were Esau and Jacob.
Esau was the firstborn and he sold his birthright to his younger brother for a bowl of pottage.
Esau did not care for his birthright, for with it came spiritual blessings.
God changed Esau's name to Edom. Also remember that God would change Jacob's name to Israel.
According to Genesis 36:8, Esau dwelt in Mount Sier.

Genesis 36:8
[8] Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom.

When Israel came out of Egypt and wanted to pass through the land of the Edomites to enter into the Promised Land, the Edomites wouldn't let them, Numbers 20:14-21.

Numbers 20:14-21
[14] And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us:
[15] How our fathers went down into Egypt, and we have dwelt in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians vexed us, and our fathers:
[16] And when we cried unto the LORD, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and hath brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border:
[17] Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's highway, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders.
[18] And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword.
[19] And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing any thing else, go through on my feet.
[20] And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand.
[21] Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.

Remember, Edom and Israel were brothers, **Numbers 20:14**.
God is going to send His ambassador to the heathen nations to arise up against Edom.
An ambassador is the highest ranking official sent to a foreign country.
This ambassador has a message, "***arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle***."

Obad 1: [2] Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.
[3] The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?
[4] Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.
[5] If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave some grapes?
[6] How are the things of Esau searched out! how are his hidden things sought up!
[7] All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him.
[8] Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?
[9] And thy mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

3. The Verdict of the Lord 2-9

God says "***I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised***."
God will raise up enemies to Edom.

In verse 3, God says "***the pride of thine heart hath deceived thee***."

<u>Proverbs 16:18</u>
[18] Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Pride is deceptive. It makes us think things about ourselves and others that simply are not true.

Pride says "I am better, I have to be better and I must be better." Pride tries to impress others.
Pride causes us to become overconfident, haughty and arrogant.
Pride gives us a stubborn, self-willed attitude. Pride causes us to become difficult.

- I think of the Titanic. It is a symbol of pride.
- Titanic was 11 stories tall, 882 feet long, 92 feet wide and 92,000 pounds.
- The owners of the ship claimed that the ship was unsinkable.
- Two days into it's maiden voyage an iceberg sent the Titanic to a 13,000 foot watery-grave.

Pride gave the Edomites a false sense of security.
The Edomites felt invincible and untouchable because they lived up in great mountain fortifications.
When Edom hears they will be brought low, they scoff and say "**who shall bring me down?**"

In verse 4, the Edomites were proud of their *natural defenses*.
Pride caused the Edomites to "***exalt***" themselves in their boastings above other nations.
Edom felt as if they were soaring as the eagle, but God says "***I will bring thee down***."
God knows how to cut someone down to size.

In verse 5, God says that thieves and robbers are come to Edom.
A robber says "what you have is mine and I will sneakily take it away."
A thief says "what you have is mine and I will take it away forcibly."
Yet even a thief and a robber will only take what they want or what they can carry.
Yet, when God seeks vengeance He will leave Edom with nothing.
God says that even a grape gatherer may leave a few grapes behind, but God will leave Edom nothing.

<u>Jeremiah 49:9-10</u>
[9] If grapegatherers come to thee, would they not leave some gleaning grapes? if thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough.
[10] But I have made Esau bare, I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself: his seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his neighbours, and he is not.

In verse 6, Edom was proud of their *resources*.
God knows what Edom has done and God knows where all of Edom's valuables are.
Edom has been found out.

<u>Numbers 32:23</u>
[23] But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

In verse 7, the Edomites were proud of their *political alliances*.
The alliances they once trusted in would betray them. Edom will be double-crossed by their own friends.

In verse 8, the Edomites were proud of their *reputation for knowledge and wisdom*.
But God will have their wise men destroyed.
Knowledge is a danger for **1 Corinthians 8:1** teaches "***Knowledge puffeth up.***"

In verse 9, the Edomites were proud of their *own strength* and their mighty men in the city of Teman.
But God will see to it that every single one of the mighty men of Edom will be slaughtered.

Obad 1: [10] For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.
[11] In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them.
[12] But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.
[13] Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity;
[14] Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress.

4. The Violation by Edom 10-14

Just what has caused Edom to be given such a destructive prophecy?

In verse 10, God says "***for thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off forever***."

A. Variance 11

When Babylon came to attack Judah and carry them away captive, Edom watched.
Edom did nothing when their brother was in trouble.
1 John 4:20 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen."

B. Vanity 12

In verse 12, Edom gloated when Babylon attacked Judah. Edom rejoiced and cheered.
Edom spoke "***proudly in the day of distress***." **Psalm 137:7** says that Edom cheered "rase it."
Edom rejoiced over another's misfortune and suffering and used it as an occasion to exalt themselves.

C. Villainy 13

In verse 13, Edom came into Jerusalem and "***laid hands***" on their substance. Edom looted Judah.
Edom took advantage of their brother Judah's misfortune and laid hands on their substance.

D. Violence 14

In verse 14, Edom joined in on the attack against vulnerable Judah.
When Edom encountered people from Judah fleeing southward from the attacking army, they killed them (cut off) or gave them over to the enemy as prisoners.
Edom "***delivered up those of his that did remain***."

Obad 1: [15] For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.
[16] For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

5. The Vengeance of God 15-16

God wants Edom to know that though calamity came upon Judah, it will come upon Edom also.
What Edom did to the people of Judah will also be done to them.
The same principle is true for us, so if we want mercy from God, we do well to give mercy to others.

In verse 16, God will pour a cup of His wrath on Edom.

<u>Ezekiel 35:2-7</u>
[2] Son of man, set thy face against mount Seir, and prophesy against it, [3] And say unto it, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O mount Seir, I am against thee, and I will stretch out mine hand against thee, and I will make thee most desolate. [4] I will lay thy cities waste, and thou shalt be desolate, and thou shalt know that I am the LORD. [5] Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time that their iniquity had an end:[6] Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood shall pursue thee: sith thou hast not hated blood, even blood shall pursue thee. [7] Thus will I make mount Seir most desolate, and cut off from it him that passeth out and him that returneth.

Obad 1: [17] But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.
[18] And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.
[19] And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.
[20] And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.
[21] And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

6. The Victory of Judah 17-21

Though Judah is in Babylonian captivity, God promises there will be a day of deliverance.
We know that after 70 years, Judah was released from foreign captivity just as God promised.
God will see to it that "***the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions***."

In verse 18, however, the attack coming against Edom will be different.
The House of Jacob will be the fire and Edom will be the stubble, and Edom will be devoured.
God promises that there will be no more "***remaining of the house of Esau***."

In verses 19 and 20, God promises that Israel will possess the land that once belonged to Edom.

- God is teaching us "Don't worry about those who ignore your need, those who rejoice at your problems, those who take advantage of your crises, those join their hands with others in attacking you. I will take care of them."

In verse 21, God says that "***saviours***" which is deliverers "***shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord's***."
Edom will be completely destroyed, and no saviors shall help her, but saviors shall come to Judah

God is assuring that there will be no one to deliver Edom from this sure prophecy.
God is assuring that He will raise up saviours or deliverers to help Israel.
God will use men such as King Cyrus, Zerubbabel the Governor of Judah and Joshua the High Priest.

Ezra 1:1-2
[1] Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,
[2] Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Isaiah 44:28
[28] That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Zerubbabel was the governor of Judah and the High Priest was Joshua. These men were deliverers to Israel.
Zerubbabel and Joshua led 50,000 people back to Jerusalem and they eventually rebuilt the Temple.

In closing, the word of the LORD through Obadiah proved true.
The Edomites rebelled against Rome in 66-70 A.D. and were crushed by Rome.
Edom has never been heard of as a people again.
The predictions of Obadiah 1:10 and 1:18 were precisely fulfilled.

*William Waldor Astor – 5th avenue & 34th street in New York- First manager William C Boldt

Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Baptist Church Ladies' Group in Tuscaloosa, but forgot to do it until the last minute. She remembered it the morning of the bake sale and after rummaging through cabinets, found an angel food cake mix.

When Alice took the cake from the oven, the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured. She said, "Oh dear" This cake was important to Alice because she did so want to fit in at her new church, and in her new community of friends. So, being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake.

Alice found it in the bathroom - a roll of Toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect.

Before she left the house to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter and gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it opened at 9:30 and to buy the cake and bring it home.

When the daughter arrived at the sale, she found the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. Amanda grabbed her cell phone and called her mom. Alice was horrified-she was beside herself.

Everyone would know! What would they think? She would be ostracized, talked about, ridiculed! All night, Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing fingers at her and talking about her behind her back.

The next day, Alice promised herself she would try not to think about the cake and would attend the fancy luncheon/bridal shower at the home of a fellow church member and try to have a good time. Alice did not really want to attend because the hostess was a snob who more than once had looked down her nose the fact Alice was a single parent and not from the founding families of Tuscaloosa , but having already RSVP'd, she couldn't think of a believable excuse to stay home.

The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper crust old South and to Alice 's horror, the cake in question was presented for dessert! Alice felt the blood drain from her body when she saw the cake! She started out of her chair to tell the hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, the Mayor's wife said, "What a beautiful cake!"

Alice still stunned, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was a prominent church member) say, "Thank you, I baked it myself." Alice smiled and thought to herself, "God is good.”